



Poet Tami Haaland

About her writing, Tami Haaland says, "There is no question that I want to learn as much as I can about poetry, which is a long study and a life-long pursuit." In her application Haaland articulated quite clearly the arc of her artistic innovation. "In recent years I have deliberately expanded the range of my writing by experimenting with form, narrative, ellipsis, and segmentation. I regularly teach myself new forms or pose questions that guide my work."

"When I approach a traditional form I will often write in that pattern during the span of a week or two in order to internalize the pattern and begin to understand how it works. Once I understand the form in this rudimentary way, it may reemerge in my work when I least expect it, or I may deliberately revisit the pattern."

"Sometimes I pose questions..."

- "How much of a narrative can be omitted without losing the narrative all together?"
- "How can one write a grieving voice without giving way to grief?"
- "How can I create a male voice when I am accustomed to writing female voices?"
- "How can I represent the voice of an institution?"
- "How can I account for many versions of the same story?"
- "How many narratives can coexist simultaneously without canceling each other out?"
- "What is the relationship between self and other, and how can I explore these roles?"

The panel felt that Haaland addressed her evolution as a poet very clearly, and noticed an arc and huge growth in her work. She provided an academic analysis of her own innovation that they felt was very well stated. The panel also noted that Haaland has less external influences and looks inward for innovation. They were struck by the honesty of her work and her ability to treat sometimes-common subjects in poetry in ways that are fresh and have a powerful impact.